
SENATE BILL 5793

State of Washington

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By Senators Wood, Quigley, Swecker, Moyer, Deccio, Strannigan, Schow, McCaslin, West and Oke

Read first time 02/07/95. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the community work experience program; adding a
2 new section to chapter 74.25 RCW; creating a new section; providing an
3 effective date; providing a contingent expiration date; and declaring
4 an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.25 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall establish and administer the community
9 work experience program for participants who have not secured permanent
10 employment during the first two years of the job opportunities and
11 basic skills training program. These participants shall be required to
12 participate in the community work experience program for one year as a
13 condition of eligibility for aid to families with dependent children
14 benefits.

15 (2) The department shall endeavor to develop placements for
16 community work experience program participants that will enable
17 participants to develop job skills that are likely to result in
18 independent employment and that take into consideration the
19 proficiency, experience, skills, and prior training of a participant.

1 The department shall provide guidelines regarding the development of
2 community work experience program jobs so that such jobs will best
3 benefit the participant and the community serve a useful purpose, and
4 not result in the displacement of persons currently employed.
5 Community work experience program employment shall be under reasonable
6 working conditions in an environment that complies with federal, state,
7 and local health and safety standards. The council shall adopt rules
8 providing that a community work experience program participant shall
9 work a minimum of twenty hours and a maximum of forty hours per week in
10 the community work experience program. Rules shall ensure that the
11 participant and his or her case manager periodically evaluate the
12 participant's ability to find independent employment. Participants in
13 the community work experience program shall be eligible for day care
14 payments, transportation services, and medicaid coverage.

15 (3) The following provisions shall be applicable to the community
16 work experience program:

17 (a) Job opportunities and basic skills training program
18 participants shall be eligible to participate in the community work
19 experience program after twenty-four months of job training or work
20 experience.

21 (b) Community work experience program participants shall not be
22 assigned to projects that require that they travel unreasonable
23 distances from their homes or remain away from their homes overnight
24 without their consent.

25 (c) Any injury to a community work experience program participant
26 by accident arising out of and in the course of community work
27 experience program employment shall be covered by the participant's
28 existing medicaid coverage. If a community work experience program
29 participant is unable to work due to such an accident, his or her
30 status shall be reviewed to determine whether he or she is eligible for
31 an exemption from the limitation on aid to families with dependent
32 children financial assistance.

33 (d) A community work experience program participant who becomes
34 incapacitated for thirty days or more shall be eligible for aid to
35 families with dependent children financial assistance for the duration
36 of the incapacity, if otherwise eligible.

37 (e) Public assistance recipients who are not employed may meet
38 their obligations under the job opportunities and basic skills training
39 program and community work experience program by providing service to

1 community-based services authorized by RCW 74.38.040 including the
2 retired senior volunteer program. This option shall not alter the
3 contract the recipient has with the state to search for and gain
4 employment.

5 (f) Public assistance recipients who are not employed shall be
6 permitted to meet their JOBS and community work experience program
7 obligations by serving as instructional assistants and by delivering
8 services and activities under RCW 28A.165.060. This option shall not
9 alter the contract the recipient has with the state to search for and
10 gain employment.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The governor and the department of social
12 and health services shall seek all necessary exemptions and waivers
13 from and amendments to federal statutes, rules, and regulations and
14 shall report to the appropriate committees in the house of
15 representatives and senate quarterly on the efforts to secure the
16 federal changes to permit full implementation of section 1 of this act
17 at the earliest possible date.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In the event that the department of social
19 and health services is not able to obtain the necessary exemptions,
20 waivers, or amendments referred to in section 2 of this act before
21 January 1, 1998, this act shall expire on that date and shall have no
22 further force or effect.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
26 effect July 1, 1995.

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